

AL-V-B-134

## Brush Tunnel

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

***Last Updated: 12-11-2003***

Brush Tunnel  
AL-V-B-134  
near Cash Valley Road, LaVale  
1911

Brush Tunnel was built in 1911 by the George's Creek and Cumberland Railroad Company for the Western Maryland Railway Company. It is the first of four tunnels on the Connellsville Extension of the Western Maryland's system. Walls of the double track tunnel are constructed of cement; it is 850 feet in length. At either end is a rectangular cement portal with an arched opening and a corbeled edge.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Brush Tunnel

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Connellsville Extension, Western Maryland Railway Sixth

CITY, TOWN

Off Cash Valley Road

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

LaVale, Maryland 21502

COUNTY

Allegany

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ abandoned**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Knipland Corporation C/O Dr. Edward F. Knipling

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

2623 Military Road

CITY, TOWN

Arlington

VICINITY OF

Virginia 22207, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #: 451

Folio #: 577

STREET &amp; NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE  
Maryland 21502**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

RL-1-6-134

**CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☐ FAIR☒ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☒ UNALTERED☐ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Brush Tunnel is located on the Western Maryland Railway's Connellsville Extension near Cash Valley Road, LaVale.

This double track tunnel is eight hundred and fifty feet in length. Interior walls are of cement. On either end of the tunnel are rectangular cement portals with a corbeled edge and an arched opening.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES	1911	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	George's Creek and Cumberland Railroad Company
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			

The Brush Tunnell is located on the Connellsville Extension of the Western Maryland Railway in Cash Valley, four miles west of Cumberland. The extension from Cumberland to Connellsville, Pennsylvania was completed in 1912 at an "enormous" cost "through rugged and mountainous country." (1)

The line...known as the Connellsville Extension was built to serve a twofold purpose; to provide a western outlet for the Western Maryland, and an eastern tidewater outlet for the Pittsburg and Lake Erie (Railroad)... It affords the Western Maryland the shortest line between Baltimore and Pittsburg, and the lowest grade line across the Allegheny Mountains.(2)

The 18 miles of double track from George's Creek Junction in the Narrows near Cumberland, and the Maryland-Pennsylvania state line was constructed by a "proprietary company" of the Western Maryland, The George's Creek and Cumberland Railroad Company.(3) Construction features of the extension in Maryland include two tunnels and a steel bridge.(4) "Four miles from Cumberland is the first tunnel, the Brush Tunnell, 850 feet in length, emerging from the tunnel into Jennings Run Valley."(5)

The extension was used for local service as well as long distance freight carriage. A " 'daily except Sunday' Cumberland-to-Connellsville train stopped at Mount Savage and Frostburg."(6) This service was discontinued during the 1930's, a victim of the Depression.(7) "The Western Maryland Railway was absorbed by the Chessie system in the mid-1970's," and the Connellsville Extension was abandoned.(8)

- (1) James W. Thomas and T.J.C. Williams, History of Allegany County (Philadelphia: L.R. Titsworth and Company) p.273
- (2) Edward M. Killough, ed. History of the Western Maryland Railway Company (Baltimore: Voluntary Relief Department Press, 1938)p.44
- (3) Ibid,pp44 &45

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(cont.)

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Edward M. Killough, ed. History of the Western Maryland Railway Co. (Baltimore: Voluntary Relief Department Press, 1938 )  
 Stegmaier, Harry Jr. et. al. Allegany County-A History, Parsons W.Va. McClain Printing Co., 1976)  
 Thomas, James , W. & Williams, T.J.C. History of Allegany County Philadelphia: L.R. Fittsworth and Co. 1923  
 CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 285.35 acres

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION****LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

David A. Dorsey, Historic Sites Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites  
3 Pershing Street

DATE

November 21, 1979

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

777-5944

CITY OR TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland 21502

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

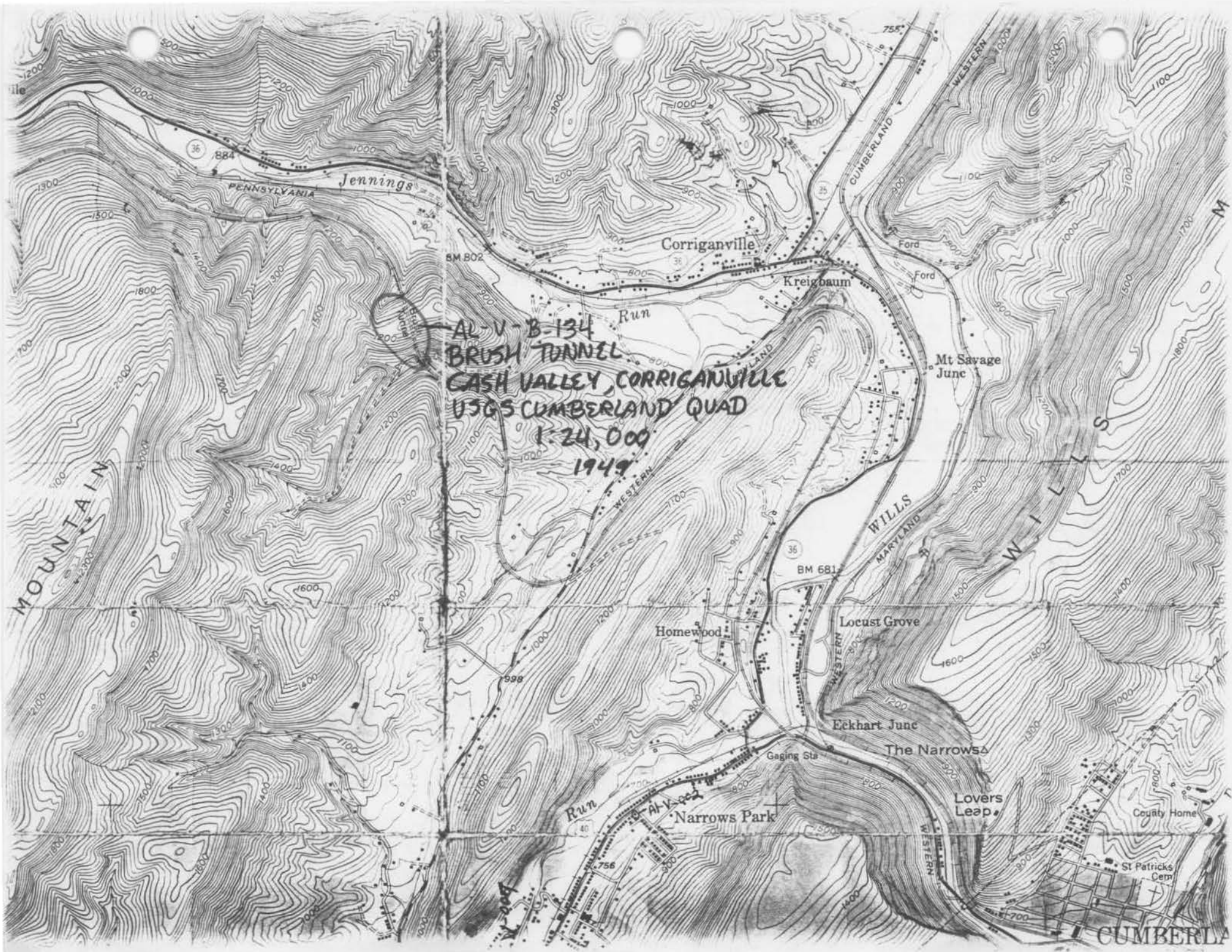
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438

(Significance cont.)

Footnotes

- (4) Ibid,p46
- (5) James W. Thomas and T.J.C. Williams, History of Allegany County (Philadelphia: L.R. Tittsworth and Company) P. 273
- (6) Harry I. Stegmaier, Jr. et al, Allegany County, A History (Parsons W. Va. McClain Printing Company) P.335
- (7) Ibid, p.357
- (8) Ibid,p420



AL-V-B-134  
BRUSH TUNNEL  
CASH VALLEY, CORRIGANVILLE  
USGS CUMBERLAND QUAD  
1:24,000  
1949





AL - V - B - 134

BRUSH TUNNEL

Cash Valley Rd La Vale

David A. Dorsey

" / 19 / 79

North